



# WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 23, No. 6      Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.      October 2012

## All are invited to Olympia's Arab Festival

### Rachel Corrie Foundation promotes festival to counter negative stereotypes

Jordan Beaudry

During Art's Walk Weekend, the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice is hosting Olympia's first-ever Arab Festival. This fun-filled family event kicks off at the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural, on the corner of State and Capital, Friday, October 5, at 5 pm. Members of Olympia's Arab community presented the idea for an Olympia Arab Festival to the Rachel Corrie Foun-

#### Overview of Events

Friday's free festivity is an Arabian night of hookah, DJ's, dance, games, and refreshments. The Arab Café and Hookah Lounge will continue at the same location on Saturday, October 6, from 12-5 pm, in conjunction with a daylong Arab Festival, at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, from 11am to 5 pm Admission to both events is free to the public.

Saturday's Arab Festival features panelists discussing topics ranging from Women of the Arab World to the Arab Spring. There will be children's games, Arabic lessons, storytelling, scavenger hunts, and a fashion show, as well as a live Falconry display and educational booth. The event also includes performances from The Batiste Dabke Dance Team of Seattle and the critically acclaimed House of Tarab Arabic Music Ensemble. Following this up, at 7 pm, is a spoken word, comedy, and hip hop performance headlined by Khaled the Comic, who has toured throughout the US, Canada, and the Middle East. Khaled will be joined at The Olympia Center by Sudanese-Canadian spoken word artist Yusra Khogali, and Saudi Arabian hip-hop artist NF. Tickets are \$15, with a \$5 student discount.

Sunday will cap things off with an Arab Film Festival, hosted by the Olympia Film Society at the Capital Theatre. Three films, *The Time That Remains*, *Je Veux Voir* (I Want to See), and *Bab'Aziz*, were chosen to highlight the voice, strength, and passion of the Arab world. Sunday's screenings begin at 2:30pm. OFS members may attend for \$5.50, and general admission is \$8.50.

ation, as a way to showcase Middle Eastern cultural diversity. There's an unfortunate tendency in the West to think of the Middle East as one homogenous unit. According to Edward Said, author of *Orientalism*, the West's collective knowledge of the Middle East has been filtered

through centuries of stereotypes and uneven power relations, creating an image of Eastern societies as fundamentally similar to one another, distinct from and inferior to the West.

Even back in 1979 Said observed, "So far as the United States seems to be concerned, it is only a slight overstatement to say that Muslims and Arabs are essentially seen as either oil suppliers or potential terrorists. Very little of the detail,

the human density, the passion of Arab-Muslim life has entered the awareness of even those people whose profession it is to report the Arab world. What we have instead is a series of crude, essentialized caricatures of the Islamic world presented in such a way as to make that world vulnerable to military aggression."

Over the last thirty years this ignorance and the resulting tension has grown undeniably worse. In the face of such ugliness one of our local Arab-Ameri-

can community members, Farihan Bushnaq, proposes a remedy. "The Arabs are known for their love of poetry, their generosity, and for welcoming the foreign visitor. The best way to dispel the negative image of the Arabs is to pay them a visit."

foreign visitor. The best way to dispel the negative image of the Arabs is to pay them a visit."

In this spirit, Saturday's Arab Festival will feature educational tables, each with local Arab Americans sharing information and activities unique to



their respective national and cultural heritage. Olympia's Arab-American community has been heavily involved in the planning process, providing an example of self-representation free from the orientalist filter. This will be a weekend dedicated to celebrating and experiencing the food, culture, traditions, lifestyles, and peoples of the Arab world in a peaceful, joyous, and authentic manner. Only by understanding and accepting our differences are we free to acknowledge our similarities and enrich one another's lives.

All are invited to what's sure to be the Khafla of the year.

*Jordan Beaudry is a recent graduate of The Evergreen State College with a passion for social justice and a pen in his pocket.*

## Alliance to Protect Thurston Power receives most of its funding from Puget Sound Energy

John Pearce

Olympia, WA—On Friday, August 31, the Alliance to Protect Thurston Power (APTP) broke the record for the most expensive political campaign ever in Thurston County history. APTP was created to fight the Public Power campaign that succeeded in placing Proposition 1 on November's ballot. Many consider APTP to be a fake grassroots (or "Astroturf") group because it was created by a Seattle political consultant paid by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and until recently received all of its funding from PSE.

APTP's collection of \$111,807 through the end of August took the crown from Kevin O'Sullivan's unsuccessful 2006 campaign for County Commissioner (\$110,462). Every penny

of that \$111,807 was donated by Puget Sound Energy, current provider of electricity to most of Thurston County. PSE put their dependent surrogate, APTP, over the top with a \$25,000 cash contribution on August 30<sup>th</sup> and a \$28,500

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contribution for "Staff and Consulting Services" on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

In contrast, the grassroots citizens group, Thurston Public Power Initiative, who started the Public Power campaign late last year, has raised \$8,271.25 through September 7<sup>th</sup>. It includes dona-

tions from 27 individuals, two unions, and four low-cost fundraisers. The largest donation received was \$1800 from WFSE Local 443.

Since September 6<sup>th</sup>, APTP received another \$35,000 in contributions from a lobbying firm, the three for-profit electrical utilities nearest to Thurston County, and another multinational corporation with ties to PSE.

A "Yes" vote for the Thurston County Proposition 1 authorizes Thurston Public Utility District to enter the electrical business through a 10-year window, during which time PSE will continue to provide electricity to the county. This leaves plenty of time for all necessary studies, public meetings with citizen input, and thoughtful deliberation, prior to making any decision.

*John Pearce is the chairperson of Thurston Public Power Initiative.*



WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Works In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org)

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Creighton Rose	and room for more

On the front cover –

In support of Proposition #1  
Photographer: WIP News Service

Submission Deadline:

October 19

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Love Your Body Day  
Awareness is more than skin deep



On October 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a film and community discussion around the problem of the lack of healthy empowering role models for girls and women in the media. How does this affect our dreams, our bodies, and our authority in society? Join us on Love Your Body Day, a day established by the NOW Foundation to examine the affect of the way women are represented in the media and its messages.

The Olympia Film Society will be showing "Miss Representation" at 6:30 pm at the Capitol Theater Wednesday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. General admission is \$8.50 and OFS member price is \$5.50. The film explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence.

*Tobacco, alcohol and fashion advertising are not only a health problem but also a political problem for women, because these industries contribute to stereotyping of women and discrimination against us.*

— Patricia Ireland

The movie will be followed by a panel and discussion sponsored by Thurston County National Organization for Women. Panelists will include Deborah Vinsel, CEO of TCTV, Lori Blewett, Women's Studies, The Evergreen State College and Lyndsey Young, MA, LM-HCA, therapist.

"Every day, in so many ways, the beauty industry (and the media in general) tell women and girls that being admired, envied and desired based on their looks is a primary function of true womanhood. The beauty template women are expected to follow is extremely narrow, unrealistic and frequently hazardous to their health. The Love Your Body campaign challenges the message that a woman's value is best measured through her willingness and ability to embody current beauty standards." NOW Foundation

Note that:

- A shocking 81% of 10-year-olds are afraid of being fat.
- As many as 10 million women and girls suffer from anorexia and/or bulimia, in the United States alone.
- The body type portrayed in advertising as the ideal is possessed naturally by less than 5% of females (Social Issues Research Centre).
- Percentage of female Fortune 500 CEOs: 2.4%
- Women hold only 17% of the seats in Congress
- Women of color represent only 4% of Congress and 23% of women Members of Congress.

—Thurston County NOW

For more information contact: Irene 943-1881 or [lenandirene@msn.com](mailto:lenandirene@msn.com)



Follow Eric J Garcia at [@garclaink](https://twitter.com/garclaink) on twitter or friend Eric J Garcia on Facebook.

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Why Puget Sound Energy does the Green Power Program

1. Initiative 937 requires it.
2. It lets the uninformed think they're actually doing something to save the environment.
3. It's great public relations.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) can talk all day about their Green Power program and hope we'll forget that 32% of the power they supply comes from burning coal and that instead of getting rid of their interest in the Colstrip plant, they've doubled-down on coal by signing a deal with TransAlta to buy more coal-fired power!

Overheard at the Lacey Library  
on September 22, 2012

From the mouth of the person sitting at the PSE Green Power table and trying to entice people to sign up for the program: "Most people get their energy from fossil fuels. If you sign up for the Green Power program, we can supply your house with only green energy (pointed to pie chart with windmills and solar panels). Are you interested in signing up?"

This is obviously breaking a couple of the laws of physics... and contrary to what even PSE says on their web site.

—John Pearce, Public Power Initiative

Working in WIP

Works In Progress is a publication that depends on its community and its volunteer members. From articles written and advertisement bought to the final copy printed and delivered, it can't be done without you. Please consider contributing in whatever way you can.

**WRITERS' GROUP:** WIP's new group for WIP writers meets once or twice a month to discuss ideas for articles, to ensure that crucial issues are being covered, and to collaborate and provide mutual support.

**WEBSITE MANAGER:** WIP is looking for someone or someones to maintain the new website. Experience is desired but not necessary. We are willing to train. Commitment of 2-3 hours after WIP is published each month.

**LAYOUT:** Looking for computer literate individuals with an eye for balance and basic skills in InDesign. Commitment is during the week before the last Monday of the month. Take on as little or as much as you like.

**PROOFREADING:** Relax in the Lacey Timberland Library (Group Study Area) while you read the latest issue of WIP. This is an important role that only requires a two-hour monthly commitment. Proofreading occurs at noon on the Saturday before the last Monday of the month. No need to contact us, just drop by.

**GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPH:** WIP can always use one more photo/graphic. Please consider submitting your work to WIP.

**PHOTO WRANGLER:** WIP is looking for someone to collect photos and prepare them for publication. Knowledge of Photoshop and the printing of black and white photos on newsprint is desired.

For those interested in joining Works In Progress, please contact us at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com).



# The race to the cliffside (and beyond)

Dana Walker

Election season! That exciting contest every four years wherein rigged voting machines tell us which of two lying corporate shills that Wall Street is going to install in the White House this time! The tension mounts and it's suspense galore! Who will it be? The current Constitutional Scholar in Chief/ War Criminal who ignores the Constitution or his challenger, the vulture-capitalist who built a vast fortune looting and outsourcing our country's wealth? Who will throw the lowest punch? Was Mitt Romney a bully in college? What is Michelle Obama

wearing tonight? What do the polls say about Romney's non-existent plan? Can the Media Machine continue endlessly plastering the known universe with immaterial *poodlia* speaking voluminously at great length employing enormous amounts of excess verbiage saying absolutely nothing — whilst simultaneously reserving their “right to remain silent” about the truly important issues? It has been documented that 40% of the start-up money for Bain Capital came from Salvadoran Death Squad Leaders who occasionally took a break from their hard day of massacring villages full of civilians to rape and murder nuns and assassinate archbishops. (See “Mitt Romney Started Bain Capital With Money From Families Tied To Death Squads,” The Huffington Post, August 8, 2012)

The Los Angeles Times and Huffington Post have both documented this stuff and they name names—why don't the Democrats or the Media Machine ever talk about that? Barack Obama is an indictable war criminal for ordering and overseeing the mass murder of at least hundreds and probably thousands of innocent civilians (i.e. mostly women and children) with unmanned drones piloted from a bunker in Nevada. (See “Cover-Up of Civilian Drone Deaths Revealed by New Evidence,” Truthout.org, Aug 17, 2012)

Why don't the Republicans or the Media Machine ever talk about that? Rather than point out that our government is run by a criminal gang, the Media Machine spews forth crapola like some never-ending waterfall of putrid vomitus completely drenching whatever news source that you may attempt to reference. I would suggest composting it but it is highly toxic. As for the importance and as for the legitimacy of the upcoming ‘election’ I think it important to keep things in proper perspective: First and foremost is the fact that right from the top it has been definitively proven numerous times over and over that the frigging voting machines are rigged. (blackbox-voting.org)

So much for ‘legitimacy’. In another interesting and related development neither party is even saying anything about the rigged voting machines much less doing anything about it. Gee, now why would that be? Hmmm... Even if the voting machines weren't rigged the only two realistic choices that we have are either a lying corporate fascist or another lying corporate fascist who is arguably even worse. Do you really think that using a rigged voting machine to vote for a lying corporate fascist is going to bring about any kind of ‘change we can believe in’ of any kind

Rather than pointing out that our government is run by a criminal gang, the Media Machine instead spews forth crapola like some never-ending waterfall of putrid vomitus completely drenching whatever news source that you may attempt to reference. I would suggest composting it but it is highly toxic.

in any way or in any manner whatsoever? Really? So much for ‘importance’. History proves it over and over... The only thing that ever changes anything is mass-movements in the streets. You can rarely count upon anyone who is benefiting from the status quo to bring about meaningful “change we can believe in”. These

things always come from the bottom up. I have heard of research stating that non-violent civil disobedience succeeds at roughly twice the rate of armed revolutions but I don't know the criteria or conditions or if those studies even exists and many challenge them but whatever; non-violent civil disobedience has been highly successful before and the only caveat seems to be that it only works if you have enough people. Thus, we need everyone that we can get. They can't bring in the cattle cars if there are too many of us. You really should buy a bullhorn make a sign and join us. It's actually a lot of fun and you meet a lot of truly awesome people. The Machine will be making a list and checking it twice but if we don't reach critical mass then everyone will be in for it whether or not you find yourself on any secret federal *poodliation* lists; the people who act now will merely be the first to be disappeared if/ when the hammer comes down but believe me, it won't stop with us — and if it reaches that point then I think that I would rather miss that party anyway so I don't really care. It has reached the point that if you don't already have an FBI file then you aren't doing your civic duty. It has reached the point that if you are not part of the solution then you are part of the problem.

Rather than going along with evil I will gladly be the first mouse flipping off the eagle as it swoops in for the kill—and I will recite this manifesto into their faces:

*Screw Nazis. Screw all Nazis. Screw all Nazis always and screw all Nazis in all forms and screw all Nazis in all guises and screw all Nazis at all times and screw all Nazis forever and forevermore, amen.*

That's it for now. Next month I'll tell you what I really think...

# China's extending hatred in Anti-Japanese protests

K. T. Cox

Anti-Japanese protesters have been rallying outside the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, China since Saturday; the magnitude of masses has extended beyond so much so that even select subway stations had to be closed off to ensure the safety of traveling community members—as this writer can personally testify.

For the past week there have been several policemen and volunteers guarding the entrances to nearby businesses, and as many as 10-15 (maybe more) police vehicles are surrounding perimeter each day. The Japanese flag has been burned, Japanese model cars have been overturned and even Japanese-owned businesses have been brutalized as a means to demonstrate their strong disapproval for the country. One (anonymous) community member also said in casual conversation, “I refuse to buy Japanese products, I don't want anything to do with them. We hate the Japanese.”

The protests were originally spawned over the dispute of the land-space between Japan and China; there is debate over who owns the Diaoyu Islands; a potentially valuable land for the owner's economy. Now the fire is being fueled by deep-seeded historical hatred that dates back to WWII, involving the massacre of countless Chinese people during the Japanese occupation.

More than a few times now, people have been heard to say, “Now is the most dangerous time in China, we may be on the verge of war.”

This writer in unable to obtain further information or photographs at this time due to strict regulation of police enforcement; the Chinese police have been bullying foreign workers from the US and UK by conducting random

unannounced searches in businesses and English schools, demanding to see visa paperwork and passport information. Names are being taken down and reported if foreign workers cannot present information upon request.

Please stay tuned; this writer hopes to produce a long-running story about first-hand accounts. Meanwhile, other non-related incidences have been cited:

- The name of the future Vice President of China, Xi Jinping, was blocked from Chinese search engines during the 2-week period he was reported missing in early September.
- In the Beijing History Museum, there is a Western timeline adjacent to the Chinese historical artifacts so tourists can compare history. This writer was baffled to find that the US was noted for only releasing one nuclear bomb in Nagasaki, Japan. There was no mention of Hiroshima. Even the writer's tour guide—a history major, mind you—didn't know about this.

These ongoing hateful protests are upsetting and unnecessary, and this writer concludes that such hatred has only proved to be further poisonous to the world, further perpetuated by omitting truth from history.

*K.T. Cox was a former intern at Coffee Strong and worked with Move to Amend Tacoma. She is an Evergreen graduate and is currently teaching in China.*

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# I-522: The Washington state initiative to label GMOs

Trudy Bialic

You think the odds of getting I-522 on the state ballot to label GMO (genetically modified organism) foods are stacked against us? You're right.

To get the recommended 320,000 signatures in the time allowed by the state takes money. Hiring professional signature-gathering contractors appears to be essential to get what volunteers can't do alone. When time is short and weather is cold and wet, signatures cost \$2 each, or more.

Since 2000, in Washington state, the only initiatives that have succeeded in achieving enough signatures to make it on the ballot have had major financial backers, such as Bill Gates (charter schools) or Costco (liquor privatization).

### The grass-roots

I-522 is a grass-roots effort, filed by a young vegan couple from the Tacoma area who felt someone had to give it a go. They set up a website, [LabelItWa.org](http://LabelItWa.org), and support for the initiative has grown across the state.

If each PCC member contributed just \$5, there would be enough to put I-522 on the November 2013 ballot. Much of the money that might have supported I-522 already has gone to California; \$1.2 million was raised to pay for signatures for its initiative to label GMOs, Prop 37, up for a vote November 6.

PCC is supporting signature-gathering for Washington's I-522 at all PCC stores and other locations, providing campaign support materials to sister co-ops across the state, from Bellingham to Republic. It's wonderful to work with other co-ops—and timely—as we celebrate Co-op Month and Non-GMO Month in October.

I-522 is supported by independent grocers, such as Marlene's Markets in Federal Way, the distributor United Natural Food Inc., student organizations on campuses, small restaurants, vitamin shops, a bookstore, farmers and farmer's markets. It's supported by farming communities east of the Cascades, as well as urban consumers here on the west side, across party lines.

### Disclosure through labeling

"The People's Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act," I-522, is simple. It would require food sold in retail outlets to be labeled if produced through genetic engineering.

The American Medical Association recently passed a resolution saying GMOs should be required to undergo mandatory safety assessments, which are not required by US law.

Calorie and nutritional information was not required on labels until 1990. Country-of-origin labeling wasn't required until 2002. The trans fat content of foods didn't have to be labeled until 2006. These labels are accepted now as



photo: LabelItWa.org

important, and consumers use their information every day.

Since the Food and Drug Administration says we must know if our orange juice is fresh or from frozen concentrate, doesn't it make sense that foods engineered with foreign bacteria, viruses, insect, plant or animal genes should be labeled, too?

**Supporters**

GMO foods are labeled already, by law, in 49 countries including China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, the UK, Portugal, Spain, France, Greece, Croatia, Poland, Russia, Italy,

Germany and all the other nations of the European Union.

Many have bans or other restrictions against GMOs. Some, such as India and Mexico, have bans or labeling in several states.

The American Medical Association recently passed a resolution saying GMOs should be required to undergo mandatory safety assessments, which are not required by US law. The American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, three state

► I-522, continued on page 5

## Long-term study confirms fears regarding GM food

*Ed. note: The following is an abstract of a study, Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize, by French and Italian researchers and published mid-September in the peer-reviewed journal Food and Chemical Toxicology.*

### Abstract

The health effects of a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize (from 11% in the diet), cultivated with or without Roundup, and Roundup alone (from 0.1 ppb in water), were studied 2 years in rats.

In females, all treated groups died 2–3 times more than controls, and more rapidly. This difference was visible in 3 male groups fed GMOs. All results were hormone and sex dependent, and the pathological profiles were comparable. Females developed large mammary tumors almost always more often than and before controls, the pituitary was the second most disabled organ; the sex hormonal balance was modified by GMO and Roundup treatments.

In treated males, liver congestions and necrosis were 2.5–5.5 times higher. This pathology was confirmed by optic and transmission electron microscopy. Marked and severe kidney nephropathies were also generally 1.3–2.3 greater. Males presented 4 times more large palpable tumors than controls which occurred up to 600 days earlier.

Biochemistry data confirmed very significant kidney chronic deficiencies; for all treatments and both sexes, 76% of the altered parameters were kidney related.

These results can be explained by the non linear endocrine-disrupting effects of Roundup, but also by the overexpression of the transgene in the GMO and its metabolic consequences.

GMOs and formulated pesticides must be evaluated by long term studies to measure toxic effects.

The study can be viewed at: <http://research.sustainablefoodtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Final-Paper.pdf>

## Myth: GM foods are safe to eat

The following was extracted from *GMO Myths and Truths: an evidence-based examination of the claims made for the safety and efficacy of genetically modified crops* by Michael Antoniou, Claire Robinson, and John Fagan and published by Earth Open Source (Jun 2012).

Feeding studies on laboratory and farm animals show that GM foods can be toxic or allergenic:

- Rats fed GM tomatoes developed stomach lesions (sores or ulcers). Calgene's Flavr Savr, was the first commercialized GM food.
- Rabbits fed GM soy showed enzyme function disturbances in kidney and heart.
- Mice fed GM soy showed disturbed liver, pancreas and testes function. The researchers found abnormally formed cell nuclei and nucleoli in liver cells, which indicates increased metabolism and potentially altered patterns of gene expression.
- Mice fed GM soy over their lifetime (24 months) showed more acute signs of ageing in the liver than the control group fed non-GM soy.
- Female rats fed GM soy showed changes in uterus and ovaries compared with controls fed organic non-GM soy or a non-soy diet.
- Rats fed GM Bt maize over three generations suffered damage to liver and kidneys and alterations in blood biochemistry.
- Old and young mice fed GM Bt maize showed a marked disturbance in immune system cells and in biochemical activity.
- Female sheep fed Bt GM maize over three generations showed disturbances in the functioning of the digestive system, while their lambs showed cellular changes in the liver and pancreas.
- Rats fed GM MON810 Bt maize showed clear signs of toxicity, af-

fecting the immune system, liver and kidneys.

- Rats fed insecticide-producing MON863 Bt maize grew more slowly and showed higher levels of certain fats (triglycerides) in their blood than rats fed the control diet. They also suffered problems with liver and kidney function.
- Rats fed GM oilseed rape developed enlarged livers, a sign of toxicity.
- Rats fed GM potatoes showed excessive growth of the lining of the gut similar to a pre-cancerous condition and toxic reactions in multiple organ systems.
- Mice fed a diet of GM Bt potatoes or non-GM potatoes spiked with natural Bt toxin protein isolated from bacteria showed abnormalities in the cells and structures of the small intestine, compared with a control group of mice fed non-GM potatoes. The abnormalities were more marked in the Bt toxin-fed group. This study shows not only that the GM Bt potatoes caused mild damage to the intestines but also that Bt toxin protein is not harmlessly broken down in digestion, but survives in a functionally active form in the small intestine and can cause damage.
- Rats fed GM rice for 90 days had higher water intake as compared with the control group fed non-GM isogenic line of rice. The GM-fed rats showed differences in blood biochemistry, immune response, and gut bacteria. Organ weights of female rats fed GM rice were differ-

ent from those fed non-GM rice.

- Rats fed GM Bt rice developed significant differences as compared with rats fed non-GM isogenic line of rice. These included differences in the populations of gut bacteria—the GM-fed group had 23% higher levels of coliform bacteria. There were differences in organ weights between the two groups, namely in the adrenals, testis and uterus.
- A re-analysis of Monsanto's own rat feeding trial data, submitted to obtain approval in Europe for three commercialized GM bt maize varieties, MON863, MON810, and NK603, concluded that the maize varieties had toxic effects on liver and kidneys. The authors of the re-analysis stated that while the findings may have been due to the pesticides specific to each variety, genetic engineering could not be excluded as the cause. The data suggest approval of these GM maize varieties should be withdrawn because they are not substantially equivalent to non-GM maize and are toxic.

Most animal feeding studies on GMOs have been short-term or medium-term in length. Long-term and multi-generational studies are needed to see if the worrying changes commonly reported develop into serious disease. Such studies are not required by US government regulators.



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► **I-522**, cont. from page 4  
medical associations (California, Illinois, Indiana), the British Medical Association, and the Irish Medical Organization all have endorsed GMO labeling. In addition, more than 300 US hospitals and medical centers have signed the “Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge,” encouraging vendors to supply food produced without genetic modification. The Washington Apple Commission (and the US Apple Association) recently announced their opposition to genetically engineered apples.

If California’s Prop 37 passes, it would have a seismic impact nationwide. At press time, polls showed 69 percent of California’s voters supported mandatory GMO labeling, with only 23 percent strongly opposed.

Stacy Malkan, communications director for California’s Prop 37, says “We’re confident this grassroots energy is going to take us to victory in November. Getting Washington’s I-522 on your ballot would send another strong message for labeling.”

**The opposition**

A number of largely conventional US food companies that own some organic brands are pouring money into defeating Prop 37 (see sidebar). Truth is, they’re already complying with mandatory labeling laws around the world.

Labeling did not cause market disruption, or chaos in sourcing or distribution. Their business overseas continues just dandy, and still plenty profitable.

Passing I-522 and Prop 37 would give us the transparency these companies already are giving other customers.

I-522 and Prop 37 will give us the transparency we deserve.

*Trudy Bialic is the public affairs director for PCC Natural Markets.*

*Originally printed in Sound Consumer, a publication of PCC Natural Markets, this article is reprinted with permission.*

# Like Brownshirts in dark blue...



Scott Yoos Support Committee

In the true spirit of late Summer, the month of September brought no new action in the court regarding the frustratingly-persistent case of “The State of Washington vs. Scott A. Yoos”. So (again) there is little truly juicy new news for us to share here... yet!

Importantly though, the County’s Prosecuting Attorney has set (another) pre-trial omnibus hearing for Wednesday, October 3, to begin at 10:30 am. (*Please note:* this start-time is later than was publicized in the September issue of this fine paper!) Barring any further (unanticipated but always possible!) changes, this hearing should be followed by a status conference on Halloween morning, Wednesday, Oc-

tober 31, at 9:00 am, and, the big trial itself is presently scheduled to start at 9 am, on Monday, November 5. All of these events will be occurring at the Thurston County Courthouse, which is (still) located at: 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, in Bldg. #2.

Both the hearings and the trial will be preceded by early birds’ support

**Both the hearings and the trial will be preceded by early birds’ support vigils, beginning about one-hour prior to entering the courtroom. Folks are invited to attend!**

vigils, beginning about one-hour prior to entering the courtroom. Folks are invited to please attend any (or all!) of these important events, to show your support for Scott, and to demand a greater level of *accountability and compassion* of our far too-often violent Police Department!

(Signs will be provided for the support vigils, or B.Y.O.!)

For those who are new to this ugly melodrama, *please* refer to the “Scott

Yoos Support Page”, (<http://scotttysupport.blogspot.com/>), for further details (and frequent updates, as needed)! Scott is also (occasionally) reachable via Facebook at: “Scott Yoos Ldf”, (but, more-of-ten-than-not, he’s “frankly *overwhelmed*” by that scene!)

Because it seems very relevant to the timbre of this whole discussion, we’ve decided to include a (fairly recent) comment given by the esteemed Dr. Cornel West, at a press conference regarding the “terror-ific” *National Defense Authorization Act*:

“I am full of joy to be a plaintiff in this particular case. Why? Because we’re in a turning point in the history of this nation. We need to stand for freedom. There’s an escalating authoritarianism and even a creeping fascism. Think about arbitrary police power and my dear brother, Trayvon Martin. Think about arbitrary judicial power and arbitrary presidential power, Section 1021 and 1022. The president has the right to assassinate and murder whoever he or she chooses to. That is the benchmark of an authoritarian regime, a crypto-fascist one, and I come from a tradition that says we must stand for freedom in the context of the courts or in the context of the streets.

Freedom is precious. If you don’t fight for it, you lose it.”

‘Nuff said!

We hope to see many WIP readers at the County Courthouse in October and November!

## Share of bad jobs has risen since 1979

Washington, DC-- Almost one-fourth of US workers are in a bad job, according to a new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). Despite substantial increases in the education, age, and quantity and quality of technology over the last three decades, the share of workers with a “bad job” has risen since 1979, the CEPR researchers concluded.

The report, “Bad Jobs on the Rise,” defines a bad job as one that pays less than \$37,000 per year, does not have employer-provided health insurance, and lacks some kind of retirement plan. The \$37,000 figure (which translates to about \$18.50 per hour, full-time) is equal to the inflation-adjusted earnings of the typical male worker in 1979, the first year of data analyzed in the report. The new report complements earlier CEPR research documenting the decline in good jobs over this same period.

By this definition, in 2010, 24 percent of the workforce had a “bad job,” up from 18 percent in 1979.

Compared to the end of the 1970s, the typical worker today is almost twice as likely to have a four-year college degree, is about seven years older, works with about 50 percent more physical capital, and uses much more advanced technology. Despite this, the share of bad jobs has grown.

“The increase in the share of bad jobs has little to do with the Great Recession,” said John Schmitt, a senior economist at CEPR and one of the report’s co-authors “Almost all of the increase we document had already occurred by 2007, before the downturn.”

The main driver of the rise in bad jobs, the report argues, was the systematic decline in workers’ bargaining power since the end of the 1970s. The reports’ authors point to the fall in the inflation-adjusted value of the minimum wage, the decline in union representation, trade deals, and high unemployment as some of the key factors reducing the bargaining power of workers relative to their employers.

—Center for Economic and Policy Research

# Works In Progress joins forces with Star Courier in delicious fundraiser

WIP News Service

This month, Works In Progress asks its readers to show their support for this paper and Star Courier—Olympia’s eco-friendly and democratic worker co-op bicycle delivery service. For your donation by October 30, Star Courier will deliver delicious fresh pastries and hot fair trade coffee with the latest copy of Works In Progress to your door on Saturday morning November 3rd. You have a choice of pastries (traditional, gluten-free, and vegan) from the 8 Arms Community Bakery.

**Star Courier**

Star Courier, a very new and exciting business in town, is staffed by active community members and bike enthusiasts who are attacking the usual obstacles of a first-year business. Starting any business is an expensive endeavour; an environmentally friendly, alternative transport based and local business in

weather-fickle Olympia is especially challenging. Fall is here and winter is coming, it’s time for the purchase of winter equipment that will allow them to safely continue their work. WIP wants to keep its ethical delivery service provider and is proud to be partners with Star Courier in this fundraising drive.

**Works In Progress**

For Works In Progress, money is always an issue. While we have amazing advertisers who support us financially (see the list below), printing costs are much, much higher than they were 22 years ago. WIP has also become dependent on occasional advertising for events (that actually have advertising money) and reactions to the actions of the Olympia City Council, such as the knuckle-headed stance on the now canceled 7-Eleven project on the Westside. But those opportunities are uncertain and, with the economy as it is, tend to catch us by surprise.

For a 12-page issue, WIP currently

pays the Shelton Journal approximately \$400. If we were to print a 16-pager, the price would be substantially more. There are times when we think fondly of the past when there were 20 and sometimes 32 pages, but that’s about it. And, if we were to use color, it would cost hundreds of dollars more. (We don’t like to think about color; it just makes us sad.)

Again, please support this joint effort by Star Courier and Works In Progress and enjoy your Saturday morning on November 3!

Thanks to the support of Traditions, the Olympia Food Co-op, and 8 Arms Community Bakery in making this fundraiser possible, and all of WIP’s financially supporting advertisers:

- Jamie Lee & Company
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- Cartridge Care Inc
- Inklife
- Centralia Square Antiques
- Traditions
- The Olympia Food Co-op

Star Courier and Works In Progress delicious Saturday (Nov 3) morning fundraiser!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Order for one two more \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday rising time: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of pastries (made with organic ingredients): traditional gluten-free vegan

For a minimum donation of: \$20 - order for one; \$35 - order for two; \$12 extra per order over two.

Place an order with Works In Progress by October 30 at olywip@gmail.com or PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Deliveries available to the Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia area only. Make checks out to Works In Progress.



# They have a lot in common Community building and fungus

Ava Arvest

On August 20, as part of the Village Building Convergence, the Olympia Mycelial Network (OMN) put in three new mushroom beds at Olympia's local Bed and Breakfast and community garden, Fertile Grounds. The OMN installed two Garden Giant (*Stropharia rugoso-annulata*) beds and a Shaggy Mane (*Coprinus comatus*) bed. They also incorporated some Garden Giant mycelium (mushroom "roots") into an Elm Oyster (*Hypsizygus ulmarius*) bed the group laid during last spring's Occupy Solidarity Social Forum.

The Garden Giant mycelium will hopefully take off on the chips that were laid in the spring and get what it needs to fruit in the summers. The two species can thus cohabitate in the same space, with each fruiting at different times of the year. Both mushrooms are known for their benefits in the garden, and the Garden Giant is known to be a delicious addition to the dinner table. The Elm Oyster is known for its unique quality of having a beneficial relationship with the Brassicas in our gardens.

Brassicas are a hearty genus of plants in the mustard family and includes broccoli, cabbage, kale, mustard greens, and kohlrabi. By growing the Elm Oyster in proximity to Brassica plants, repeated tests have demonstrated an increase in the growth and yield of Brassicas by two to three times!

All three of these mushrooms are local to the area and will get along with the climate and conditions the Pacific Northwest provides. Though they like different habitats, they all work well in the garden. Mushrooms are underplayed as a primordial organism because of their size and hidden life cycles, but their relevance in our lives is undeniable. They are well known for being delicious, medicinal, remediative (able to clean up pollution), and yet are stigmatized for being psychedelic as well as deadly.

With so many different kinds of mushrooms out there, and the risk of meeting either deadly or mischievous ones, some people are more inclined to throw in the identification towel, and not risk the repercussions of misidentification. Simply do not mess with a mushroom, unless you are absolutely sure. Like all great adventures in life,

we should learn to accept our mortality, and respect the fragile strands that weave this world together. This is a lesson the mushrooms can teach us.

What else do mushrooms have to teach us in this critical time of expanding digital wisdom distribution? Digital wisdom distribution, otherwise coined traditionally as the 'internet', has been likened to the workings of our very own nervous systems. When looking at how these organisms relate to the larger hole of their ecological bodies, we also see undeniable similarities in how our nervous systems releases synapses to the whole of the human physiology.

The nervous system relates messages from one side of our cellular matter to the complete opposite end. Just like this ebbing of information that courses through our body, there are similar information highways in the ecosystem that inform the microbiology when soil has been disturbed, polluted, or has simply changed. It is the mycelium, the underground portion of fungi, that are of the first to send these messages and are seen to manifest some of the first on site responses to forest fires and disturbances.

Though symptoms are a relative term of a larger process occurring, they are generally seen as a negative ailment that result from an undesirable situation. Not all mushrooms are signs of undesirable situations, but all of them

Since they have been lovingly compared to that of the earth's nervous system, in kin with Gaia theory, it is also a pleasant surprise to learn that some mushrooms have incredible nerve healing properties.

have something to say about the larger picture.

Since they have been lovingly compared to that of the earth's nervous system, in kin with Gaia theory, it is also a pleasant surprise to learn that some mushrooms have incredible nerve healing properties. Lions Mane is known for its amazing ability to regenerate nervous tissue and the emotional and physiological implications of this is more than timely for the societal obstacles our culture is confronting right now. The medicine doesn't stop there, in fact, Turkey Tail mushrooms are known for

their amazing effects on cancer patients. The krestin in Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*) mushrooms has been isolated for its immune boosting qualities and its effects on cancer cells. Known to be a prevention treatment it has been



photo: Thorsten Wiersberg

popular in Europe, China, and Japan.

Then there are the studies coming out of John Hopkins University that find mushrooms, some of the scary magical kinds, are helping people to rebuild their relationships with partners and family members, and also give the neurological opportunity to rewire their habitual addictions by creating new synapse sensitivity. The most controversial of the mushrooms are being studied and funded by grants from the government all over the country. While they remain illegal to use

they are of great curiosity as shown by our tax dollars at work.

So with all of this said about some of the most underplayed organisms in our diverse ecology, we find that mushrooms are more closely related to mammals than any other kingdom of organisms. We have a lot in common with them and can learn a lot about ourselves through them.

Yet they are still very much a mystery. Like any great mystery we're intrigued and hungry to know more. If their qualities of cleaning up pollution, healing relationships, rebuilding nervous tissue, and normalizing cell growth aren't enough to perk your interest, well don't fret there's certainly more.

A group of excited mycologists put on the first ever Radical Mycology Convergence in September of last year, and were pleasantly surprised to find that

lots of other people are intrigued by the timely characteristics of fungi. This amazing event is being put on again this year for 5 glorious days—October 18-22—in Port Townsend Washington. In the interest of the knowledge being accessible to people from all backgrounds, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. More information on this great event can be found at [www.radicalmycologyconvergence.com](http://www.radicalmycologyconvergence.com)

And if your busy schedule doesn't allow for long camping trips in the wil-

derness, not to worry! The spores of last year's convergence have fruited something locally that you can participate in at your own leisure.




Join the Olympia Mycelial network for their bi-monthly meetings, and free workshops by joining their listserve to hear about their up and coming fungal explorations and projects to bring mycology to the Olympia community. Contact the OMN by emailing [Olympiconetwork@gmail.com](mailto:Olympiconetwork@gmail.com).

Ava Arvest is a resident of Olympia.

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5:30 pm  
Traditions Cafe

For more information, contact WIP at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com).





# 301 Bing Street Primer

## Sunrise Neighborhood Community

The proposed 301 Bing Street Apartments is a 119 unit, 6-story (75') apartment complex. The project site, a 2.39 acre vacant lot, is located behind the WSECU building at 2302 Harrison Avenue and the Westside Bowling Alley. The various components of this project, including planned travel routes for the expected vehicular traffic, pedestrian safety, character and livability, and stormwater and flood issues, have led many neighbors to express serious concerns about the project design and plan to the City of Olympia's Community Planning and Development (CP&D) staff.

This article is intended as an introduction to some history and description of the proposed building. Note that the surrounding neighborhood is almost entirely one and two story homes and commercial buildings. A six-story building will forever change the landscape of Olympia's Westside.

The primary access from the north for the proposed apartments will be a developer-constructed extension of Bing Street and a cul-de-sac serving

the apartments. The southern and secondary access point will utilize the Desco driveway which runs between the WSECU building and Desco Electronics.

The site lies within the HDC-3, or high density corridor zone, as defined by the Olympia Municipal Code. This designation, stretching west from the city along Harrison Avenue and east following Fourth and Fifth Avenues, is designed to create infill, a planned option to urban sprawl. In this zone buildings are permitted a height of 60'; however, if 50% of the parking for the proposed development is located under the building, the height allowance is 70'.

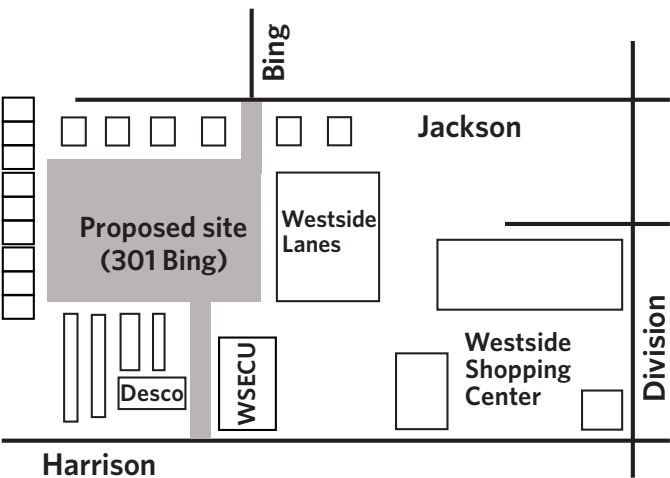
In 2009, the developer, Harmen Verbrugge of Kamuelah, Hawaii proposed a slightly different version of the project: a 132 unit, 60' apartment complex. Mr. Verbrugge withdrew his proposal in January of 2010 citing financial reasons.

In 2011 Verbrugge's 301 Bing Street Apartment proposal resurfaced; a Design Review Board Hearing was held in August of that year. At this hearing, focusing on design issues, the

board approved the project with specific recommendations. In February of 2012 the developer resubmitted the plans with the required changes.

In the most recent revision of the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) from the developer, approximately 633 trips per day will be generated by the site. Currently, the traffic plan proposes that 73% of this average daily traffic will utilize the designated secondary access, the Desco Electronics driveway. This is a revision of an earlier TIA in which 80% of the expected traffic from the apartments would utilize the Desco driveway and the four ingress/egress driveways into the Westside Retail Center. The remaining 27% is expected to utilize Jackson Avenue with a minimal number traveling on Bush and Kenyon Avenues.

At this time, the most recent revisions to the stormwater engineering plan have been received by CP&D staff. An earlier Soils Investigation Report submitted



by the developer but determined to be invalid is still awaited by staff. A land use review is tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

To express concerns please write to the Senior Planner, Cari Hornbein at [chornbei@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:chornbei@ci.olympia.wa.us) and the Olympia City Council members. The local neighborhood group can be reached at [buildgoodneighbors@nwlink.com](mailto:buildgoodneighbors@nwlink.com).

*Sunrise Neighborhood Community is a group of concerned neighbors who are in the process of forming a new neighborhood association that includes residential areas west of Division Street.*

SHOWING AT THE  
OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY  
CAPITOL THEATER ON FIFTH AVENUE

**Annual  
Drag Show Extravaganza**  
Saturday October 6, 7 pm  
*"Experience and support the work of queer youth performers who have created this production based on their own experiences and commentary on the culture we live in! This is a full scale musical production that you can't miss! This year's theme centers around sex and seuxality with a little teen drama mixed in."* — OFS

**Miss Representation**  
Oct 12 - Oct 17  
*...the film's most vivid voices are those of teenagers — young people just learning that the world is a heady stew of both unfairness and possibility. And "Miss Representation's" advice to these youth is important, both the inspirational words of Gandhi ("Be the change you wish to see in the world") and the more down-to-earth adage to simply "turn off the television and read."* — Moira Macdonald, Seattle Times

**Pink Smoke Over the Vatican**  
Sunday, October 28  
*The film is an engaging, touching and surprisingly humorous exposé of one answer to a serious question: Where is the voice of women in the Roman Catholic Church?* — Lou Fancher, Lamorinda Patch

**Saturday, November 8**  
**River As Spirit:  
Rebirth of the Elwah River**  
*This film is a meditation on the soul of the Elwha River and the people and salmon who have been a part of it for thousands of years.* — OFS

**Buried In Sawdust  
For 60 Years**  
*How a Washington state estuary was restored after 50 years of being covered by milling waste.* — OFS

**Saving Puget Sound**  
*Inspirational story of a community's effort to preserve and restore a forest, a salmon stream, and Puget Sound.* — OFS

**Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace**  
**Presents**  
**PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY**  
**2012**  
**A Day of Workshops**  
**@ The Evergreen State College**  
**Seminar II - Lecture Hall # 1**  
**Network Strategize Plan Organize Act**

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*Ecology Wars and the 1% Pathology* [michaelparenti.org](http://michaelparenti.org)  
**Friday, October 19th 7-10pm** **Lecture Hall # 1**

**Saturday October 20th**  
**10:00am—6:00pm**  
**For Additional Information, visit [omjp.net](http://omjp.net)**



# Empty-handed in the battlefield

Adam Keller

It was a long and detailed ruling which Judge Oded Gershon of the Haifa District Court had composed, no less than 162 pages. Of course, no media outlet published the entire text. But a few selected sentences starred in all the new items, a representative sample:

“The Philadelphi Route [located along the Egypt-Gaza border] was the arena of constant war, of ongoing sniper fire, rocket fire and explosive charges. None other than combat soldiers ventured there... The bulldozer crew was conducting a clearing operation under fire. The late Rachel Corrie chose to take a risk, which ultimately led to her death... The deceased had gotten herself into a dangerous situation... She did not stay away, as any sensible person would have done. The deceased’s death was caused by an accident which the deceased brought on herself, despite the attempts of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops to remove her and her friends from there... Under the circumstances, the IDF unit’s conduct was impeccable.”

Indeed, the area known as the “The Philadelphi Route”—originally, a code name randomly determined by an IDF computer—was a war zone. An arena of the most difficult and frustrating kind of war in which a military force finds itself being charged with maintaining control over a very narrow and very long piece of land, locked between the Gaza Strip on one side and Egypt on the other. Moreover, the force’s main task there was to maintain a suffocating siege on millions of people in the Strip and deny their access to essential commodities. Which made Gazans desperate and embittered, with every incentive to confront the Israeli forces in every way available to them.

It was indeed the arena of an ongoing war, a war difficult and frustrating even for the soldiers to whose lot it fell to be sent there. Still remembered is the bitter day when we could see on TV soldiers get on their knees on the land of The Philadelphi Route, trying to find pieces of the bodies of their comrades who had been inside a blown-up armored personnel carrier.

Still, Judge Gershon was certainly not accurate when he wrote that combat soldiers were the only people there, in the hell of the battlefield called The Philadelphi Route. Very many, civilians were there, too—men and women, elderly and children— in their thousands and tens of thousands. The civilians were there because it was their home, the only home they had - even if it was quite miserable. They had lived there before it became the scene of battle and before it came to be called Philadelphi. Many of them had come to live there because their original homes had become a battle

zone in a previous war, the one which convulsed this country in 1948. And they stayed there, even when it had become the Philadelphi battle zone and the Philadelphi corridor became an arena of battle, even when some them got killed by the bullets of snipers and the explosion of explosive devices, because they literally had nowhere else to go.

And then somebody conceived a brilliant idea. The man’s name was Yom Tov Samia, and he was an outstanding officer in the Israel Defense Forces who climbed fast through the ranks until he became Commanding General South. And General Samia had an idea how to win the lost war along the Route. To take up “clearing”—a word invented by the Israel Defense Forces, the kind of word that armies make up to hide horrors behind neutral words—on a truly grand scale. To create a “sterile” space, com-

pletely sterile and without life, a kilometer or two wide. A completely flattened area with no houses and no people and no animals and no plants; nothing but soldiers and weapons of war moving in safety as they could notice from far any possible threat and take action to neutralize that threat. In purely military terms, it must be said, there was some



photo: The Rachel Corrie Foundation

logic to this idea. Only it implied the destruction of thousands of houses in which tens of thousands of people lived, half or three quarters of a city called Rafah.

Probably General Yom Tov Samia would have liked to do it all at once, in one blow, to erase “shave off” all these thousands of houses in a single day and by the next complete the sterilization of the area. But this might have caused a bit too much of an international stir, become an instant item of “Breaking News” on CNN and other network, and the political echelon did not give its approval. So the Caterpillar D-9 bulldozers were set to working by the good old method of creating “facts on the ground” bit by bit, acre by acre. Each time they erased and “shaved off” another row of houses, sometimes twenty, sometimes thirty. Usually the residents of these houses managed to jump out and run

told that Rafah was such a place. And they came to Rafah and were hosted by families on the very front line, where their hosts already knew that they were next in line for the D-9’s.

And there were activists who after months in besieged Rafah went to rest and freshen up in their own quiet and safe homes at Copenhagen or Barcelona

or Sydney—or Olympia in the State of Washington in the United States—and when they returned to Rafah they found that the house where they had stayed the last time no longer existed, and not a trace of it left, and the plot on which it had stood had become part of the sterile space. Another house, which had been further back, was now the new front line.

And then they decided to do what a person who cares, who cares very, very much, could do in such a situation. To go unarmed into the battlefield and arena of war called the Philadelphi Route. To stand with empty hands against tanks and bulldozers, and to scream and cry out towards those who did not really want to hear. To face empty-handed and unarmed the might of the Israel Defense Forces. To interpose with their bodies and interfere with implementation of the brilliant strategic plan of General Yom Tov Samia.

Maybe there is something in what Judge Oded Gershon wrote. A sensible person—the kind of sensible person which Judge Gershon himself is, and his friends and acquaintances—would not have done it. Judge Oded Gershon would certainly not have seriously considered facing with his bare hands against a giant bulldozer, nearly as big as a house. “The deceased had knowingly gotten herself into a dangerous situation.” There is no doubt that she did. A very dangerous situation. Jewish and world history marks a young boy named David, who knowingly placed himself in a very dangerous situation, facing a fearsome giant called Goliath. It might be that he was not a very sensible person, either.

“The bulldozer driver and his commander had a very limited field of view. They could not notice the deceased” wrote Judge Gershon. One might add the commander of the commander also had a very limited field of view, and even the commander of the commander of the commander. A very limited field of view, in which only the immediate military considerations and objectives could be seen. A very limited field of view in which human beings could not be seen, a living city could not been as it was be-

ing destroyed and razed and erased and made into a sterile zone. A very limited field of view where it was not possible to see a young woman who followed the dictates of her conscience and came all the way from the West Coast of the United States to Rafah in the Gaza Strip, to risk her life in a desperate act of protest.

At the exit from the Haifa District Court, Cindy Corrie, Rachel’s mother, spoke to the journalists. Hurt and shaken by the verdict she said “In that home which Rachel was trying to protect there were children. All of us should have been there, to stand with her.”

Two years after the day when the bulldozer crushed Rachel Corrie to death, Israel’s political and military leadership decided to terminate the hopeless fighting on the Philadelphi Route and withdraw the soldiers who have endured hell there and made a hell for others. Media attention had impeded implementation of the General Samia’s grand design, and only a portion of the city of Rafah has actually become an “exposed” sterile area. Samia himself left the army in frustration and embarked on a successful career in the business world.

The situation of the Palestinians is far from bright. The occupation continues, with many different forms of oppression manifesting themselves every day. Also for continuing the tight siege of the Gaza Strip, new and creative ways were found even without having Israeli troops holding The Philadelphi Route. But that particular battle scene is now quiet; there are no more soldiers or bulldozers there. The home that Rachel Corrie was trying to protect had been rebuilt shortly after the soldiers left, and also the rows of houses in front and behind it. The children are playing there, more or less quietly.

She did not die in vain.

*Adam Keller is an Israeli peace activist who served several prison terms for refusing reserve military duty in the 1967-occupied territories His Crazy Country blog is reprinted with permission.*

**Jewish and world history marks a young boy named David, who knowingly placed himself in a very dangerous situation, facing a fearsome giant called Goliath. It might be that he was not a very sensible person, either.**

at the last minute, but some were not quick enough and were buried under the ruins of what had been their homes. In the city of Rafah, photos of those victims were printed and pasted on the walls, but media outlets in wider world were not really interested.

That was the time when volunteers started arriving on the scene, the people of the International Solidarity Movement, ISM. Yes, that organization to which Judge Gershon paid much attention in his verdict, stating that it was “abusing the discourse of Human Rights and morality” and that its acts are “violent in essence.” Activists from Europe and America and all over the world came to the Gaza Strip and asked where Palestinians were most suffering from the occupation’s harshness and were in greatest need of assistance and international solidarity. And they were



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# Why we should welcome Mitt Romney's Middle East straight talk

Ali Abunimah

US Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has made headlines with secretly recorded comments released by *Mother Jones* in which he argues that there's little chance of a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians, and that given the realities—as he sees them—the best that can be done is to manage the situation:

“There's just no way.” And so what you do is you say, “You move things along the best way you can.” You hope for some degree of stability, but you recognize that this is going to remain an unsolved problem. We live with that in China and Taiwan. All right, we have a potentially volatile situation but we sort of live with it, and we kick the ball down the field and hope that ultimately, somehow, something will happen and resolve it. We don't go to war to try and resolve it imminently.

To be sure, the general view that Romney puts forward in his full comments is a faithful rendition of the position of the Israeli government: there is no “peace” because Palestinians don't want it and are “committed to the destruction and elimination of Israel” and that an independent Palestinian state would simply be a beachhead for Iran.

To this extent, Romney's view of the Palestinians—who in his view can all be characterized in terms of generalities—represents the racist and colonial worldview of the Israeli establishment.

Romney also stated, “The idea of pushing on the Israelis to give something up to get the Palestinians to act is the worst idea in the world.”

But his comments get at a truth that is widely recognized in the US establishment though rarely spoken in public—and Romney too seems to have thought his comments would remain private among those attending the \$50,000-a-plate fundraiser at which he made them.

Although Romney does not use the term, what he lays out is a strategy of “conflict management”: the belief that no political solution is available, at least at any price a US administration is willing to pay, and therefore the best that can be done is to try to keep a lid on things and stop the problem from getting worse or flaring up in ways that damage other interests.

It's a view that has been pushed by the Israeli right, but it is also the de facto policy of the Obama administration, the European Union and Arab states.

**Rules of “conflict management”**

The first rule of conflict management is that you claim that your actual goal is a just, lasting political solution as soon as possible.

The Obama administration observes that ritual. In his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention earlier this month, for example, President Obama asserted, “Our commitment to Israel's security must not waver, and neither must our pursuit of peace.”

However, ever since Obama abandoned any effort to make Israel accept even a nominal freeze on settlement construction, and since long before

his Middle East envoy Senator George Mitchell departed the scene, Obama's approach has been conflict management. This involves:

- Doing everything the US can to appease the Israel lobby at home by providing aid to Israel in ever greater dollops and acting as Israel's surrogate in every international forum;
- Appeasing Israel's war-mongering toward Iran by waging an escalating economic and covert war on Iran while never ruling out a military attack;
- Maintaining, at Israel's behest, financial and other support for the Palestinian Authority puppet regime in the West Bank which serves to keep a lid on the Palestinian population on behalf of Israel;
- Supporting “economic peace” aimed at pacifying the Palestinian population with consumer goods and illusions of prosperity;
- Supporting the siege of Gaza and maintaining the ostracism of Hamas in order to prevent a challenge to the West Bank puppet regime;

Always, always saying that you are fervently working toward peace negotiations and peace.

### Romney vs. Obama

So how would a president Romney be different than Obama? He wouldn't. Like Obama, he would let Israel gallop ahead with its colonization and de facto annexation of the West Bank. Like Obama, he'd support the siege of Gaza. Like Obama he'd block all international efforts to hold Israel accountable. Like Obama, he'd keep US military and economic aid for Israel at record levels. Like Obama, he would maintain funding for the Palestinian Authority, because this is a policy supported by the Israel lobby, AIPAC.

### Would Romney attack Iran?

And, like Obama, Romney would keep up pressure on Iran in order to appease Israel's fanatical lobby. But wouldn't Romney go to war against Iran for Israel—something Obama seems reluctant to do, to the great annoyance of Israel fanatics at home and abroad? I'm not so sure. Look again at what Romney said:

You hope for some degree of stability, but you recognize that this is going to remain an unsolved problem. We live with that in China and Taiwan. All right, we have a potentially volatile situation but we sort of live with it, and we kick the ball down the field and hope that ultimately, somehow, something will happen and resolve it. We don't go to war to try to resolve it imminently.

Sure, Romney is talking about “stability” on the Palestinian-Israeli

front. But there's little reason to believe he wouldn't—like Obama—seek “stability” in the broader region, which means a status quo that favors US imperial interests.

If Romney were elected, on Day One he'd receive the same “advice” from the same military establishment that instructs Obama, and there's little reason to believe he'd deviate greatly from current US policy (Here I recommend Joseph Massad's recent article “Arab instability and US strategy”).

The only difference is that Romney has now let the cat out of the bag. When he'd say he's working for “peace,” we'd really know it's just a ploy to “kick the ball down the field.”

The protestations of Obama partisans that their man really, really cares about peace should not fool anyone. His approach is exactly the same.

The answers are not in Washington

As I wrote days after Obama was elected in 2008, the developments that matter are not those dictated from Washington,

but what Palestinians and their allies do on the ground.

Diplomatic stagnation and the bankruptcy of the “peace process” is our opportunity to push forward with BDS and other work that has the potential to shift the balance of power.

Conflict management is an admission of ideological defeat by Israel and its allies—it means it is up to us to articulate a democratic alternative to the racist and colonial status quo which both Romney and Obama fully support.

*Ali Abunimah is a Palestinian American journalist and co-founder of Electronic Intifada, a not-for-profit, independent online publication about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.*

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# ARAB FESTIVAL FILMS SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

## The Time That Remains Sunday, October 7, 2:30pm

*“Where am I?” a disoriented Israeli cabdriver asks his dispatcher at the beginning of Elia Suleiman’s The Time That Remains. This pointillist portrait of Israeli Arabs in Nazareth tries to answer that plaintive question in four quiet, uneven, partly autobiographical, seriocomic episodes set in 1948, 1970, 1980, and the present.*

—Dan Kois, The Village Voice

*Beginning in 1948 and continuing to present times, Suleiman fashions the film around stories and remembrances of his family, particularly the diaries of his stoic father Fuad, who is portrayed with movie-star elegance by Saleh Bakri.*

—Peter Howell, Toronto Star

*...there is much to enjoy in The Time That Remains: not merely its breathtaking technique, but the touching moments of gentleness and compassion.*

—Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

*Though there is anger, even bitterness, in his portrayal of the humiliations suffered by Palestinians at the hands of Israelis, Mr. Suleiman traffics neither in hatred nor in the romanticism of lost causes. Instead he finds comedy in cruelty, and also the reverse.*

— A. O. Scott, NYTimes

## I Want To See Sunday, October 7, 5:00pm

*The wisp of a concept has a (real) French film actress named Catherine Deneuve taking a road trip to the hazardous locales of southern Lebanon with a (real) Lebanese actor named Rabih Mroue as her guide. Deneuve is in Beirut to attend some unspecified political gala, but she expresses a strong desire for a close look at the war-torn regions for reasons that seem deeply private. “Je veux voir,” she says enigmatically: “I want to see.”*

—Ted Fry, Seattle Times

*Strongest images show a beach site where the rubble from ruined buildings winds up. A striking vision of swirling dust clouds, red trucks, yellow bulldozers, and the blue Mediterranean turning to rust, it makes palpable the broken country disappearing into the sea.*

—Alissa Simon, Variety

*Husband-and-wife team Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige capture their meandering conversations but also ensure the wider tragedy is present, whether in glassy shots of the sprawling wreckage or as reflections in the car windows. They never take full dramatic advantage of the situation, and there’s no denying that this is a single-note film, but it’s a note of considerable emotional clout.*

—Marcia G. Yerman, Huffington Post

## Bab’Aziz Sunday, October 7, 7:30pm

*A soft, poetic side of the Muslim world is portrayed in a movie as multifaceted and difficult to follow as its labyrinthine title. There’s nothing wrong with being difficult if there’s a payoff at the end. Screenwriter-director Nacer Khemir provides that with a visually stunning final scene that makes sense of everything that came before.*

—Ruthe Stein, The San Francisco Chronicle

*No, it’s not a film for the impatient. No guns, no chases, no explosions. (Although a palm tree does burn, set gorgeously against a darkened desert sky.) What it does have, however, is a thoroughly positive vibe as it explores tales of love, in all of its varied forms -- and that’s where “Bab’Aziz” resonates.*

—Mike Scott, The Times-Picayune

*An exotic musical score that climaxes with the epic gathering of dervishes in a parched, crumbling city enhances the visual poetry. The music also gives balance to a dramatic structure that might otherwise have seemed overly amorphous. The atmosphere is so thick with mystical theory that languor sometimes threatens to win out over insight. Be sure to come well rested; this desert is no place for a nap.*

—Ted Fry, Seattle Times

## CAPITOL THEATER ON FIFTH AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

### Labor Rights in Canada and the United States

Washington, D.C.- Unionization in the United States has been on the decline since the 1960s. While many reasons have been offered to explain this drop in the rate of unionization, a new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research highlights the roles that employer opposition to unions and weak labor laws have played in this decline.

The report, “Protecting Fundamental Labor Rights: Lessons from Canada for the United States,” begins with a comparison of the current state of organized labor in the United States and Canada. It notes that, from the 1920s to about 1960, Canada and the United States had roughly the same unionization rates. But in 1960, the two began to diverge. As of 2011, the unionization rate in Canada stood at 29.7 percent, compared to less than half that in the U.S., at 11.8 percent.

The paper then goes on to look at the legal process for forming unions and how impasses in contract negotiations are handled in both countries, reaching the conclusion that these institutional factors help to explain much of the difference in unionization rates.

While Canada and the U.S. both have elections as one route to forming unions, Canadian workers in several provinces also have the much faster option of card-check certification. Under card check, once a majority of employees signs cards in support of unionizing, an employer is required by law to recognize their union. In the United States, however, unless an employer voluntarily recognizes a union, workers must first file a petition showing support for unionizing and then vote to unionize in an election before an employer is required to recognize their union. As of 2011, the median amount of time between the petition to form a union and the election was 38 days, and it often extends far beyond this. During this time, U.S. employers usually engage in anti-union campaigns, often committing illegal acts – such as threatening to close the workplace or threatening to fire workers – to discourage them from voting to form a union. In fact, workers were illegally fired in about 30 percent of certification elections in 2007. Unfortunately, the legal response to such practices is slow and ineffective.

It is worth noting that union decertification in Canada was no more common in periods where card-check certification was in place than at other times. Opponents of the Employee Free Choice

Act, which would have brought card check to the United States, argued that the process would allow unions to bulldoze workers into signing cards, leaving them with union representation even when they didn’t really want it. However, the fact that decerti-

fication was no more prevalent under card check than it was under mandatory elections in Canada suggests that this has not been a problem.

Finally, the report notes that even after a union has been certified, negotiation of a contract is a much more difficult prospect in the U.S. than in Canada. Though required by law to negotiate with workers “in good faith” to obtain a contract, many employers never reach an agreement with a union. The failure to get a first contract often leads to the union being decertified. In Canada, “first contract arbitration” mandates that if bargaining for a first contract has come to an impasse or if certain conditions have been met, there is a mediation procedure to reach a mutual agreement. Should this fail, arbitration will lead to a legally binding contract.

As demonstrated in the full report, the two largest differences in labor policy between the U.S. and Canada – card check certification and first contract arbitration – lead to an environment that is more conducive to forming unions in Canada and goes far in explaining the difference in U.S. and Canadian unionization rates.

—Center for Economic and Policy Research

### Libertarian Party of Washington State Executive Committee endorses Initiative 514

Bellevue, Washington – September 23, 2012. The State Executive Committee of the Libertarian party of Washington unanimously endorsed I-514 in the committee’s latest meeting.

Titled Cannabis Child Protection Act I-514 is an initiative that is to be submitted to the legislature.

I-514 “would remove most marijuana-


related civil and criminal penalties for offenses involving only person 21 or older; revise marijuana-related offenses for person under 21; and prohibit state assistance with federal marijuana-related enforcement”.

The Libertarian party recognizes that prohibition of marijuana is a contentious issue in American society. We also recognize that the War on Drugs has filled our prisons, diminished our Civil Liberties, and militarized the police. It is estimated that in Mexico 47,000 people have been killed in the Drug War since 2006. Parents charged with possession have had the state seize their children. Young people who have been prosecuted for marijuana offenses often are affected for the rest of their lives. Job opportunities and education opportunities may be lost. As Libertarian vice-presidential candidate Judge James Gray, author of the book Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed: A Judicial Indictment Of War On Drugs, has said, “[t]oday, our marijuana laws are putting our children in harm’s way,...We want to reduce the exposure of a lifestyle of marijuana use and selling to our children, but prohibition’s illegal dealers don’t ask for ID”.

While the War on Drugs has captured our attention we have ignored the benefits of marijuana and prohibited the growing of hemp for industrial products. Scientific research into the medical benefits has recently shown that cannabis, the proper English name for marijuana, may be useful in treating cancer, epilepsy, Alzheimer’s disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease), Multiple Sclerosis and a number of other diseases.

It is time to end the War on Drugs and declare Peace. I-514 is a step in that direction.

—Libertarian Party of Washington



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# WIP Announcements

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## Community Special Events

**Water-wise Plant Sale**  
**Sunday, September 30, 11 am - 4 pm**  
**4131 Mud Bay Rd W, Olympia**

Thousands of native and drought-tolerant ornamental plants to choose from! One-on-one help with horticultural experts! Free mini-consultations from Designer Linda Andrews (by advanced appointment). Advice on rain gardens from Stormwater Stewards! Trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, ornamental grasses, subshrubs, and vines! Great deals & hard-to-find plants, too! By Native Plant Salvage  
Come join the fun & tell your friends!

**Shuruq**  
**Olympia's First Arab Festival!**  
**Saturday/Sunday, October 6 & 7**  
**Olympia Community Center**

This is the first Arab Festival in Olympia. We invite our community to join us as we celebrate and experience the food, culture, traditions, lifestyles and peoples of the Arab World in a peaceful, joyous and authentic manner.  
**The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace & Justice**  
Contact us at (360) 754-3998 or info@rach-elcorriefoundation.org

**Localization Not Occupation**  
**Sunday, October 7, 1 pm - 6 pm**  
**Sylvester Park, Olympia**

October 7th, is the 11th anniversary of the Afghanistan war: the unhappy day when America used its collective pain from 9/11 to inflict suffering and occupation upon the poor people of Afghanistan. Eleven years later, ninety percent of Afghan people have never even heard of 9/11 and yet they still suffer from the consequences. In the United States people have neglected to pay attention to the continued and expanded campaign of war and occupation. This October 7th we would like to invite you to Localization Not Occupation, a gathering that will help us connect the dots between the wars in the Middle East and the increasing inequalities in America. Demanding politicians and war profiteers end the war is not enough. Localization builds community strength and demands we the people end the war directly.

**Margy Pepper / Dogjaw / Dick Binge / Soil / Diparate [Solidarity w/ Grand Jury Resisters]**  
**Friday, October 12, 7:00pm**

\$7-20 benefit for the grand jury resisters.

For info on the Grand Jury: saynothing.info or nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com for updates.

**Playback Theatre Performance**  
**Stories of the Lasting Friendship**  
**In collaboration with Julian's Circle of Friends**  
**Friday, October 12, 7:30 pm**  
**Traditions Cafe, Olympia**

This month we will be collaborating with Julian's Circle of Friends. A Circle of Friends is group of people selected by an individual with developmental disabilities or other types of disabilities that meets regularly with the individual to help plan, design and support ways for that person to achieve his or her personal goals. Circles are based on the belief that the community is a place where everyone belongs. A circle can include friends, family, classmates, co-workers, professionals, and other community members.  
Cost: Suggested donation \$5.00-\$10.00 (No one is turned away)

**I-502 Barnstorming Schedule**  
**Friday, October 12, noon**  
**Tivoli Fountain Lawn**  
**Capitol Campus**

Travel author Rick Steves and other supporters will be having a picnic! The Olympia event kicks it all off. We need everyone we can get to come out to rally for victory. Volunteers are needed, but just coming out to show your support would really help.  
Olympia is our only outdoor event and we want as big a group as we can get. If you're able to volunteer, contact me. We can arrange rides for people in or near Thurston or Pierce Counties! Please tell your friends because there will be sandwiches for all! For more information:mbaileyh@gmail.com

**Squat Orientation & Encuentro - Homes Not Jails - Puget Sound**  
**Saturday, October 13, 10 am - 1 pm**  
**Olympia Timberland Library (public meeting room)**

This event is an orientation to squatting and re-claiming bank foreclosed properties in the Puget Sound Region. Houses for people, not for profit.  
For an additional information call 206-853-4719.

**Love Your Body Day: Awareness more than Skin Deep**  
**Wednesday, October 17, 6:30 pm**  
**Capitol Theater in Olympia**

There will be a film and community discussion around the problem of the lack of healthy empowering role models for girls and women in the media. How does this affect our dreams, our bodies, and our authority in society? Join us on Love Your Body Day, a day established by the NOW Foundation to examine the affect of the way women are represented in the media and its messages.  
The Olympia Film Society will be showing "Miss Representation" 6:30 pm at the Capitol Theater Wednesday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. General admission is \$8.50 and OFS member price is \$5.50.  
The film explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence. The movie will be followed by a panel and discussion sponsored by Thurston County National Organization for Women.  
For more information contact: Irene 943-1881 lenandirene@msn.com

**Radical Mycology Convergence**  
**Thursday-Monday, October 18-22**  
**Port Townsend, WA**

We envision this unique event to be a volunteer-run gathering of mycologists, fungal enthusiasts, and Earth healers coming together to share skills and information related to the benefits of the fungal kingdom in terms of remediative properties as well as human uses. This 5-day event will culminate in a remediation project (putting theory to practice) and will also be a unique chance to build community with like-minded mycophiles (aka mushroom lovers) from around the world.  
The suggested donation is \$10-50, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.  
www.radicalmycologyconvergence.com

**All Hallows Masquerade**  
**Saturday, October 20, 7 pm - 11 pm**  
**The Olympia Ballroom**  
**116 Legion Way SE, Olympia**

Come celebrate the season and support the Thurston County Food Bank and Olympia's Planned Parenthood. Dj, indoor trick or treating, tablers, raffle, dancing and more! All Ages! Belly dancing!  
\$8 with a food donation, \$10 without. Tickets on sale now at Danger Room Comics!

**Gar Lipow's**  
**Cooling a Fevered Planet**  
**Tuesday, October 23, 7pm**  
**Traditions Cafe, downtown Olympia**

GarLipow will speak about "Cooling a Fevered Planet," a lively,irreverent, and information-packed picture book for grownups. It shows how to break through the political bottle-necks preventing us from solving the climatecrisis. This accessible book shows that the climatecrisis is a side effect of inequality, war, and injustice. Cooling a Fevered Planet draws a path for the 99%, and for the planet we live on, to escape the crushingweight of the 1%.  
For more info contact Gar at Glipow@gmail.com 360-943-1529



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Photo: Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project, a project of the Rachel Corrie Foundation

## Potato lobby has its way with Congress

The potato industry is pressing Congress to break its 40-year commitment to ensuring that the foods that the WIC program provides reflect recommendations from nutrition scientists, not lobbyists. And so far, it's succeeding.  
That's bad news for the 9 million low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and young children whom WIC—the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children—serves.  
Congress has never dictated the specific foods that WIC should provide, wisely leaving that to nutrition experts. The sound scientific basis for WIC foods is one reason for WIC's well-documented success at improving birth outcomes and participants' nutrition and health.  
In June, however, the House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to WIC's annual funding bill that requires WIC to allow participants to buy white potatoes with WIC fruit and vegetable vouchers.  
The Agriculture Department started those vouchers in 2009 — the result of a multi-year process to align WIC foods with the latest nutrition science, based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM). WIC is a supplemental nutrition program, so the IOM convened top health and nutrition experts to study which foods tend to be missing from WIC participants' diets and recommend foods to include in the WIC food package.  
As the IOM recommended, WIC provides vouchers for fruits and vegetables but not for white potatoes because that would offer no additional nutritional benefit. Low-income mothers and young children already eat more than the recommended amounts of starchy vegetables.  
—Zoë Neuberger, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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